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SECURITY INFORMATION

Tab 12

7 May 1952

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Possible [redacted] Project

25X1

Essential Non-Economic Attributes of
Successful Aggressor Nations

1. It occurs to me that it might be well worth-while [redacted] to mobilize the resources of the historical profession on a highly selective basis to study in reasonable breadth and depth a representative number of instances in which races or nations with obvious economic inferiority were able to wage successful wars of conquest leading to political control of reasonable duration over richer and more highly civilized peoples. The purpose of this study should be to extract common qualities of phenomena, physiological, moral, organizational, etc., that enabled the conquerors to achieve the maximum military success with limited economic resources and scientific skills. It might then be interesting to apply these criteria to Russia today in order to get an additional and more subtle appreciation of the magnitude of the threat posed by her than is possible from appraisal only of her order of battle and economic capacity.

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2. For purposes of illustration I confine myself to the Christian era and select, completely at random, examples that might well be comprehended in this study.

a. Moorish Conquest — 7th and 8th Centuries
b. Mongols — 13th Century
c. Tartars (Tamerlane) — 14th-15th Century
d. Osmanli Turks — 15th-16th Century
e. Sweden — 17th Century
f. Iroquois (or the Six Nations) — 17th Century*
g. Prussia — 18th Century
h. Tchaka Zulu — 19th Century
i. Japan (1st 40 years of the Meiji) - Late 19th Century

* Though little known this conquest is in some respects the most spectacular of all: with an armed force that ranged variously from 1,200 to 3,000, the Six Nations, more or less ruled or at least exacted tribute from an area ranging from Eastern Ontario to the Dakotas on the north and down to a line from Southern Arkansas through Northern Alabama on the south. See Parkman, Jesuits of North America, chapters XXVII and XXXIII. In the abridgment entitled, "Battle for North America", see part II, chapters 6 and 7.

ROBERT AMORY, JR.

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